

tials of the physiology of digestion, and the conditions which especially affect the digestive functions.

Part six treats of the general relation of food to special diseases, and diseases which are caused by dietetic errors.

Part seven is concerned with the administration of food for the sick. It contains much that is valuable, especially to the nurse, who, as Dr. Thompson says, has a far better opportunity than the physician to judge of the patient's appetite and study his whims and fancies in regard to food.

Part eight is devoted to diet in disease. This is the most important portion of the book and two hundred and ninety pages are given to the subject. In those diseases where several high authorities hold opposing opinions, as in gout, diabetes, etc., these various theories are impartially stated. Much useful matter is presented here regarding the important rôle played by diet in diseased states, and the subject is reviewed in a very comprehensive manner. A full description of the various diet systems and special diet is also included.

Part nine contains numerous rations and dietaries of representative hospitals and government institutions, besides an excellent article on the feeding of infants and young children, and the various dietetic cures. The subject of diet for athletic training is also mentioned, and the dietaries of the Yale boat crew and football teams are given. To this is added an appendix containing numerous useful recipes for invalid foods and beverages suitable for fevers and convalescence from acute illness.

The whole work is certainly a very valuable and highly practical one and fulfills well the requirements for which it was intended. There is a full index, and the printing and binding are admirable.

A. FREEMAN.

LECTURE ON APPENDICITIS AND NOTES ON OTHER SUBJECTS. By Robert T. Morris, A.M., M.D., Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Medical Association; Member of the New York State and County Medical Societies, Society of Alumni of Bellevue Hospital, Linnean Society of Natural History, etc. With illustrations by Harry Macdonald, M.D. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1895.

The author of this book of 159 pages has had exceptional opportunities for studying the various subjects of which he treats, and his ideas are set forth in his usual clear and concise manner. As he states in his preface, "this collection of lectures includes the substance of my teaching on the subject of appendicitis at the Post-Graduate Medical School of New York, and . . . the substance of many of the notes has appeared in various periodicals." This fact, however, does not detract in the least from their value, and the book will be read with interest by surgeons even though they may not fully agree with the author in many of the ideas set forth in the notes.

The illustrations, of which there are many, are the work of Dr. Henry Macdonald, and are finely executed from specimens and dissertations furnished by the author.

The first chapter deals with the preparation of the surgeon and patient for operations in general. The author keeps pace with the most advanced ideas on asepsis, and in addition strongly advocates certain theories of his own.

The anatomy and pathology of the appendix vermiformis ceci, together with its contents, are ably treated in the second chapter; and the author makes the interesting statement that the nearest approach to a "seed" he has been able to find in an appendix, "was a piece of apple-core encrusted with phosphates."

Chapter III. is an admirable dissertation on appendicitis; which the author defines as "an infective, exudative inflammation of the appendix vermiformis ceci." After describing its cause, and the manner of entrance of the infection, the pathology of the disease is given in plain term, the text being rendered more interesting by the photo-micrographs and other illustrations. Three very good points which are forcibly brought out are, first; the little reliance which can be placed upon the temperature in making the diagnosis; second, the marked disproportion which frequently exists between the pulse and the temperature; and third, the fact that the presence or absence of an inguinal tumor is not important. He makes a comparison of the death-rate in cases treated medically and surgically, and then details a typical case under each method of treatment, the comparison being strongly in favor of early surgical interference.

In the fourth chapter the author gives a short history of the advance in popular favor made by the operative treatment of appendicitis in the last five years. His description of the operative technique leaves little to be desired. He strongly recommends the short incision; the proper length, to his mind, being one inch and a-half. He says that this gives all the room necessary for cases, even with dense and extensive adhesions, and the shortness of the incision, together with accurate and careful returning of the incised structures, favors the production of an "evanescent scar," and greatly shortens the period of the patient's confinement to bed. "An inch-and-a-half in a week-and-a-half" being not at all uncommon in his cases.

An interesting report of the author's first hundred consecutive cases of operations for appendicitis then follows, which shows four deaths in the first twenty-five cases; two deaths in the second twenty-five, and only one death in each of the third and fourth sections; while there were no deaths among the fifty-nine simple cases (*i. e.*, those without general infection.)

Chapter V. consists of notes on some twenty-eight different subjects, notable among which are: "Another Method for Palpitation of the Kidney," "The Drainage Wick," "Is Evolution Trying to Do Away With the Clitoris?" and "Ovarian Transplantation."

December, 1895.

GAZZAM.

MYXCEDEMA AND THE THYROID GLAND. By John D. Gimlette, M.R.C.S. (Eng.); L.R.C.P. (Lond.) J. and A. Churchill, London, 1895.

The little volume before us had its origin in an augural thesis written in Portuguese, in accordance with the rules of the medical school of Lisbon. It was afterwards modified and published in English in the hope that the general practitioner might find it a convenient epitome of the present state of our knowledge on the subject. This object on the part of the writer has been fully attained. The subject is considered in three parts; first, "Topics Relative to Myxœdema," in which the history, etiology, symptomatology, complications and varieties, diagnosis, and clinical cases are fully considered. Secondly, "Topics Relative to the Thyroid Gland," in which its anatomy, histology and physiology are considered. Part III. deals exclusively with the pathology and treatment of myxœdema itself.